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The Logic of Dynamite.

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

Drink or taste not the Pyrian spring."

Sings the poet. The enemies of society are persistent, determined, dangerous. With theories founded upon a partial understanding of the truth, their enthusiasm ends only in fanaticism. Among themselves there is no agreement. They are united only in opposition to the established rules of society. To them success is more dangerous than failure; for success implies action, and action must be founded upon agreement:

When the Molly McGuire's began their persecutions of the honest miners of Pennsylvania, there seemed some foundation for their discontent. Murder soon followed in the train of threats and petty violence, ending in a reign of terror. The jealousies and enmities of this success sealed the fate of these Thugs of the coal regions. One of the band turned State's evidence, and a dozen or of its more conspicuous members died upon the scaffold.

Recent developments would seem to indicate a similar result to the dynamiters of New York and London. The stabbing of Captain Phelan, in the office in Chambers street, the published descriptions of their works in St. Louis and other places, and the shooting of O'Donovan Rossa show the dangers by which they are surrounded. Few men have sufficient self-control to do such foolish work without recognition upon the part of the fraternity; and recognition means, sooner or later, death by the halter, the pistol or the knife.

The act of Mrs. Dudley, in shooting O'Donovan Rossa, was that of a madwoman or a fanatic. Yet it was not more crazy than the destruction of the Tower of London, with its human victims of innocent women and children. The bloody deeds of the past few weeks, it is to be hoped, are the beginning of the end of the dynamite craze.

Destruction of life and property proves nothing of value. Its logic is merely the expression of jealousy, hatred and malice. It simply proves that giant powder is stronger than granite, and that the dangerous classes have formed a new alliance. Society will presently conquer its enemy, and the world will be better for the blood shed.

To such elements concession is useless. The emancipation of three millions of serfs by the Czar of Russia was followed by his death by dynamite. A new Czar reigns in his stead, sustained by more vigorous measures of repression. The liberal measures of Gladstone have provoked new outrages. The enemy fights in ambush, but time will unmask him and enable society to discover his name, his methods and his objects.

Force is mighty when employed in the defence of truth, but it can never be permanently successful as a means of oppression. When Charles V, of Spain, in order to suppress Protestantism in the Netherlands, ordered that all heretics should be put to death, and their property confiscated, he, doubtless, thought that he was upholding the Catholic faith. But Erasmus wrote that the burning, boiling, flaying and otherwise torturing of the members of the new sect had increased their numbers. Continued persecution begat the Dutch Republic, after which the liberties of modern nations are patterned. The use of secret agencies of destruction is a sign of weakness, not of strength. The stubborn Anglo-Saxon race understands an appeal for more liberty from those who can use it, but they are not likely to be bullied into granting favors.

True Anti-Monopoly.

It is inevitable that the great question of the near future will be in what manner to regulate and control great corporations, so that they may not abuse, to the people's harm, the powers with which they are invested. This is a difficult question and requires intelligent discussion. The people need light, so that when brought face to face with it they may deal understandingly.

There are those, calling themselves anti-monopolists, who pretend to discuss this

question. Of these the majority are blatant demagogues, seeking place and profit by any road. Others are honest but ignorant, the rest are the crowd that unthinkingly follow any new idea. From that source we need seek no light. They speak whereof they know not. They are blind leaders of the blind.

There are two very common and very false ideas that hinder all intelligent discussion of this question; one that a monopoly is an evil in itself; the other, that a corporation is an entity and has an independent existence. We must free our minds of these notions. Monopolies are not evils per se, but in many instances highly beneficial, and to a greater or less extent are encouraged by the laws of every civilized country. Every holder of letters patent or copyright, every owner of land, is a monopolist; in fact, the whole structure of our laws, by virtue of which we hold property, is founded upon the principle of monopoly.

It is natural, & is proper, and in civilized society, it is imperative, that monopolies should exist, and the only escape from them is to be found in communism. No idea could be more false than that a corporation is an independent entity, and few errors have been the cause of more evil.

Throw aside the mere legal status of a corporation and it has no existence except in its relation to its stockholders. It exists for their interests, it is managed by them and for them, and any discussion that deals with a corporation without regard to its relations will result in nothing but error.

The antagonism to corporations and the legislation directed against them is mainly due to the prevalence of these two false notions.

With our minds freed from these erroneous ideas, let us seek an answer to the question how best to prevent corporations from abusing the powers with which we have invested them.

We shall state very briefly here the principles upon which these preventive remedies must be based, leaving to a future time the more elaborate discussion of those principles.

First: These remedies must be based on the laws of trade that govern corporations as well as natural persons, for these remedies are intended to aid, not subvert those laws.

Second: They must be directed against the abuse of the power, not against the power itself, for the power is essential and the abuse the evil.

Third: All legislation intended to effect these remedies must be flexible, so as to fit all cases.

Fourth: These remedies should not be drastic in their nature nor such as to remove the foundations upon which have been built the business of the corporation.

Lastly, All laws intended to provide these remedies should be enacted with the full understanding that they affect, not an impersonal thing, but a vast army of stockholders and employees with the same rights as ourselves.

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